

Claims

1. A seeding machine comprising:
 - a frame,
 - a main seed hopper mounted to the frame;
 - a plurality of planting units are independently mounted to the frame, each of the planting units comprises an auxiliary seed hopper, a seed meter for receiving and metering seed from the auxiliary hopper, and a furrow opener for forming a planting furrow into which seed is deposited from the seed meter;
 - a source of pneumatic pressure directs seed from the main seed hopper to the auxiliary hoppers through flexible hoses;
 - the auxiliary hopper is provided with sidewalls defining an interior for receiving seed, the sidewalls are provided with an opening having a removable screen through which air can be vented.
2. A seeding machine as defined by claim 1 wherein the auxiliary hopper has an open top that is enclosed by a removable lid.
3. A seeding machine as defined by claim 2 wherein the opening is defined by opening edges in the sidewalls, the opening being upwardly open towards the removable lid.
4. A seeding machine as defined by claim 3 wherein the removable screen has channel edges that engage the opening edges of the sidewalls.
5. A seeding machine as defined by claim 4 wherein the removable screen is trapped in the opening by the removable lid engaging the auxiliary hopper.
6. A seeding machine as defined by claim 5 wherein the removable screen is protected by an exterior wall that extends outward from the auxiliary hopper, the exterior wall defining an open bottom.
7. An auxiliary hopper for a planting units of a seeding machine, the auxiliary hopper comprising:
 - sidewalls defining an interior for receiving seed, the sidewalls are provided with an opening;
 - an outlet seed passage extending from the interior to a seed meter;
 - a removable screen is removably mounted in the opening through which air

can be vented.

8. An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 7 wherein the auxiliary hopper is provided with a inlet seed passage through which seed passes into the interior.

9. An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 8 wherein the auxiliary hopper has an open top that is enclosed by a removable lid.

10. An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 9 wherein the opening is defined by opening edges in the sidewalls, the opening being upwardly open towards the removable lid.

11. An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 10 wherein the removable screen has channel edges that engage the opening edges of the sidewalls.

12. An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 11 wherein the removable screen is trapped in the opening by the removable lid engaging the auxiliary hopper.

13. An auxiliary hopper as defined by claim 12 wherein the removable screen is protected by an exterior wall that extends outward from the auxiliary hopper the exterior wall defining an open bottom.

14. A planting unit for a seeding machine, the planting unit comprising:
an auxiliary seed hopper having sidewalls defining an interior for receiving seed, the sidewalls are provided with an opening having a removable screen through which air can be vented;

a seed meter for receiving and metering seed from the auxiliary hopper; and
a furrow opener for forming a planting furrow into which seed is deposited from the seed meter.

15. A planting unit as defined by claim 14 wherein the auxiliary hopper is provided with a inlet seed passage through which seed passes into the interior.

16. A planting unit as defined by claim 15 wherein the auxiliary hopper has an open top that is enclosed by a removable lid.

17. A planting unit as defined by claim 16 wherein the opening is defined by opening edges in the sidewalls, the opening being upwardly open towards the removable lid.

18. A planting unit as defined by claim 17 wherein the removable screen has channel edges that engage the opening edges of the sidewalls.

19. A planting unit as defined by claim 18 wherein the removable screen is trapped in the opening by the removable lid engaging the auxiliary hopper.

20. A planting unit as defined by claim 19 wherein the removable screen is protected by an exterior wall that extends outward from the auxiliary hopper, the exterior wall defining an open bottom.